

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH



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## This image shows a blank, aged, cream-colored page, likely an endpaper or flyleaf of a book. The paper has a slightly textured appearance with some minor creases and discoloration, particularly along the edges. The left edge of the page shows the binding structure, including what appears to be stitching or staples. The overall tone is a warm, off-white or light beige.

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## WHY MR. BORDEN IGNORED HIS STRONGEST ARGUMENT

To the C. P. R. belongs the credit of having unintentionally offered Mr. Borden the strongest argument he could desire for the nationalization of the telegraph system—and to Mr. Borden belongs the credit of having avoided that argument with a studied persistence that can not have been accidental.

While Mr. Borden was delivering addresses in the western cities on the advantages of national telegraphs the newspapers of those cities were struggling for life and liberty against the exorbitant demands of the C. P. R. Telegraph company. What better opportunity for discussing his case could an advocate of national telegraphs want? What better argument could be devised against the unwieldiness of permitting a corporation to absolutely control a telegraphic system than to point to the manner in which the C. P. R. was using its customers? What better illustration could be conceived of the injustice to which a telegraph corporation will resort in its attempt to muzzle the press and to extract the most from its victims? While Mr. Borden attacked the antiquity for illustrations of the advantages of public ownership, here, fresh in the minds of his auditors, and of pressing personal concern to every one of them, was a glaring example of the abuse of private monopoly. What more could the honorable gentleman have wanted as an argument for nationalization?

How did Mr. Borden use the argument thus provided for the great private telegraph company? Did he cite it as a signal instance of abuses which would be impossible under a government-owned system? Did he demand that the C. P. R. telegraph lines be nationalized, or that national lines be brought into competition with them? Not a bit of it. Not one word about the C. P. R. and the high way methods of its telegraph system. So far as his speeches were concerned no listener could gather that Mr. Borden had ever heard of any disservice, recent or remote, great or small, of any kind or degree, between the newspapers and the C. P. R. Telegraph company. Great Britain was duly called upon for proof of the success of national lines and Mr. Gladstone was brought in to testify that he favored a national system, but not one word of the betwixt that at the moment was trying to choke the independence of the newspapers of the western country and which had been bleeding them white for twenty years.

Can it be that Mr. Borden did not see the argument so accommodatingly provided by the blind reed of the C. P. R.? If so he was probably the only man in Western Canada who could not see it. Certainly his opponents will not accuse Mr. Borden of a defective vision, and surely his political friends will not plead short-sightedness as an excuse for him that Mr. Borden saw the argument and appreciated its value no reasoner could wish to doubt. That he did not use it can only have been because he did not want to use it. And if he did not want to use it this can only mean either that Mr. Borden advocated nationalization merely as an election dodge or that he does not contemplate extending the national system into the territory dominated by the C. P. R. Either he means that even if he had the power he would "forget" his nationalization platform obligation, or it means that if he had the power it is no part of his policy to permit the nationalization program to interfere with the monopoly enjoyed by the C. P. R. Telegraph company.

That the argument would have proved more popular than his other arguments only suggests how strong is the bias which prevented Mr. Borden using it. Public approval of himself and his platform was what he was after. That he was getting little of it from his stock arguments and illustrations must have been apparent to Mr. Borden. That the C. P. R. corporation tactics could be used in any way to provoke much more popularity must have appeared and appealed to him. There is no conceivable public reason why he should not have used that argument. That there was a reason goes without saying. The reason can only have been private, and the only conceivable private reason is that Mr. Borden's alliance with the C. P. R. prevented him drawing attention to its treatment of the public.

How strong are his corporation connections witness the circumstance that they muzzled him from using the argument that held hope of arousing the public favor he sorely was not getting from the platitudes he was reciting.

The word will get relief from the abuses of the C. P. R. Telegraph company, but not from any nationalization program carried out by Mr. Borden. His steadfast refusal to even refer to the abuses makes it abundantly plain that we would get no relief from them if Mr. Borden had the power to govern. Fortunately we are not to have to try the experiment of what Mr. Borden would or would not do. The Government have promised to investigate the conduct of the Company and the result will probably be to bring it under the wholesome authority of the Railway Commission.

## THE AUSTRIAN PROBLEM.

For the past week the eyes of Europe—at least of European governments—have been fixed on Vienna, where the veteran Austrian Emperor, who has been struggling with an illness commonly expected to be the last, from every European capital the dominant note of the despatches has been speculation as to what might happen if Franz Joseph were called away.

For years one of the Emperor's intimates to continue living has been to keep the Powers from quarrelling over his dominions. His personality has been admitted by friend and foe as the force which bound Austria and Hungary together. While he lived the united nation could well take care of itself; if he died racial hatreds, which counted on to open the way for dismemberment of the Empire and the consequent absorption by the neighboring States. In consequence, the condition of the Emperor's health has determined very largely the theme of conversation at all governmental councils. When Franz Joseph was well the Powers entertained themselves by squabbling over Morocco and other such issues which he took a lively interest as an exchange ally.

Europe suffered a sympathetic chill. The European nations are always ready to envision the map of Europe and always planning to extend their neighbors in the hope of gobbling up new stretches of territory. This is the ultimate possibility from which the diplomats never take their eyes, the remote vision that treats as dead, alliances formed and broken, standing armies maintained and battalions constructed. To those who do not live in Europe, there is something grotesquely funny in the spectacle of a whole continent of nations each looking for an opportunity to knock its neighbors in the head and appropriate their possessions. For those who reside in Europe it is by no means so funny. Politically, the frustrated European civilization appears to have accomplished little more than to develop the tribal and family feud into a national affair, national altering its nature and but slightly modifying its methods.

The ambitions of Germany are cited with making the Austrian situation one of the most delicate in the interest to Europe. Belligerence against the Kaiser is supposed to have begun in Austria, and with Austria allied to Germany the Kaiser would control Central Europe from the North Sea and the Baltic to the Adriatic. He could then dictate to Italy and France as to whether or not they should continue alliances with Great Britain, while the union of the German and Austrian armies would afford the Czar an excellent reason for maintaining friendship with his powerful neighbor. In a word the Emperor of Germany would be master of Europe, or in a pendent position to consider himself such and to act accordingly.

This realignment of the European boundaries can, of course, be prevented by Austria and Hungary standing firmly together when death removes the head of the combined nation. The weakness of Russia makes it impossible for a German-Russian alliance to take matters into their own hands and settle the Austrian question regardless alike of the Austrians and the rest of Europe. And in any event the other Powers would be likely to stand idly by while the balance of power was thrown so badly out of joint. Only a sadly divided house with one faction strongly in favor of German domination could now make possible the dream the Kaiser is supposed to entertain.

Fortunately there is good reason to believe Austria and Hungary will prefer to exist in union rather than perish separately. The racial prejudice which has been relied on to open the way for disunion and dismemberment has been materially reduced by the advent of a new generation of youths who appear to think more of the present and the future than the past. The last century's past-Germans in element suffered severely and the foreign propaganda of the Kaiser is not likely to better their fortunes.

## W. S. FIELDING.

(Winning Free Press.)

Nova Scotia is rightly proud of the fact of her sons, beginning with Joseph Howe, who have played a leading part in shaping Canada's history. Of what has any province greater reason to be proud than of national service worthily rendered by her sons to her own honor and the advantage of the whole Canadian people? That not only Nova Scotia, and with the feeling of all Canada, found expression in the remarkable demonstration in Halifax yesterday in honor of Mr. Fielding, signifying the twenty-fifth anniversary of his entry into public life. Those years have been filled with valuable public service, which have improved upon the whole Canadian people a high sense of Mr. Fielding's ability and the conviction that great as are the achievements already standing to his credit, he is destined to render yet greater services to Canada and to the Empire.

He has been Finance Minister of the Dominion since the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier took office in July, 1906—a record unprecedented both in point of time, either in Great Britain or in any other part of the Empire, and unprecedented, too, in its brilliant success of fiscal policy. From his entering the public life of the Dominion, he had been for years a power of his nature province. He went to the premier's desk in Halifax from the editor's desk of the Halifax Chronicle, to which position he had risen from being office boy. He has worked hard, his life, and worked effectively; and to him it is in the prime of his power, with great possibilities before him of future valuable service to his country.

Born in November, 1848, in Halifax, Mr. Fielding obtained his education in the city schools, entering the ranks of the Chronicle at the age of sixteen. The time was one of great political excitement in Nova Scotia. Confederation was under discussion. Howe, Anson and other distinguished Nova Scotians spoke through the editorial page of the Chronicle, and young Fielding became absorbed in the public questions of the time. His advancement in the Chronicle office was rapid, his ability and energy carrying him forward at such a rate that he was in a position of confidence, he, too, was writing editorials, in addition to his many other duties.

For twenty years he was associated with the editorial columns of the Chronicle. In 1868 he was first elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature, a Conservative government, headed by the late Sir John Thompson, afterwards premier of the Dominion, was in power. In the campaign against that government Mr. Fielding took a leading part; and though the government had been repudiated, the Liberals could not place in power in the triumph was made more palpable by the fact that the Conservative government had been elected.

Mr. Fielding's record in the Dominion field has been in the memorable day of his first budget speech, when he announced the leading principle of the British preference, which marked the beginning of a new era in development of the idea of empire. The lead taken by Canada on that day has influenced all the subsequent course of Imperial evolution, as Mr. Chamberlain testified in his annual Imperial preferential policy. In that first budget speech Mr. Fielding had announced his first and only principle. The fiscal year 1907, which he held for his first month and a half.

## BODE'S GUM

Better than a Medicine

was the Liberal government's first year in office, was the closing year of the operation of the Conservative tariff, the so-called National Policy. It was a year of deficit, and it fell to Mr. Fielding, as part of his duty in making his budget speech, to announce that deficit, as well as the many other details of the Finance, Mr. George H. Foster, has been able to announce a surplus. The total net surplus for the eleven years of his administration, deducting the deficit of \$519,981 for the year 1907, was \$10,479,342. This gives a net average annual surplus of \$7,255,265.

The inauguration of the Fielding tariff of 1897 marked the beginning of an era of unprecedented increase in the trade and commerce of Canada, in the production of the Dominion's resources, and in the general prosperity of the Canadian people; and consequently the British preference helped the cause of empire. The record of his many other successes, last year, with the British preference continuing as an outstanding feature, even a greater masterpiece of constructive statesmanship, as is attested by the results accruing from its operation, and also by the powerlessness of the opposition to overthrow it, in the task it. Never before in the Canadian history has any other parliament won such a decisive proof of the party in opposition to completely nullify the results of the majority government of a new tariff. And in the eleven years since that time the Dominion's new tariff came into operation, it has immensely strengthened the confidence which the country feels in Mr. Fielding as finance minister. Tidy, Tapper and Fester, they were his surnames as finance minister; Fielding has long been office boy and of them, and his popularity is greater than ever, because every one of his predecessors has been failed.

It would be hard, indeed, to find in modern history a more successful financial administration than that which he has given this Dominion. He has always kept in mind that tariff stability, no less than tariff reduction, is an essential. Changes have been made after mature consideration and there has been no necessity to go backward. And it is to Mr. Fielding's credit that he has never forgotten that the country may yet experience periods of depression, and has been allowed to pass a conservative course, while framing a policy of prudent and judicious expenditure, and the fact that the country's prosperity, the increased Dominion government has been commensurate with the development of the country, is attested by the annual balance sheet showing such a factory surplus of revenue from an equally adjusted low tariff. Last year the expenditure increased only one per cent, while the trade of the country increased it per cent. If some corporations showed as much enterprise in wise expenditure as the Dominion government, some serious grounds of complaint in recent years would not have existed.

The latest signal public service rendered to the Dominion by Mr. Fielding has been in the negotiation of the commercial treaty with France, in which he has been a leading part. In this, as in all else that has to do with the promotion of Canadian trade and commerce under the present Dominion government, Mr. Fielding holds so important a part, the advancement of the country's best interests has been his.

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